



Traineeships for Young Women Engineers in Benin's Public Energy Sector

Summary

Country	Benin
Implementer	Unit for Gender and Development, Ministry of Energy (MoE)
Co-implementer	Internal structures of the MoE
Target groups	Young women engineers and students
Duration	12/2020 – 05/2021
Type of energy use	Electrification

Challenge

In Benin, only 41% of the population have access to electricity and in rural areas it is just 18% of households. Although women are disproportionately affected by this lack of electricity, they are generally underrepresented in the decision-making bodies in Benin. The rate of female elected officials in the country is extremely low with 78 out of 1,815. The situation in the energy industry and state institutions is similar. Nevertheless, general conditions for women in Benin have improved during the last years, e. g. Benin has jumped from position 90 to 75 out of 190 countries, in the rating of the legal and regulatory framework for women's employability. In technical university courses, although still underrepresented, women nowadays constitute up to 35% of students.

Impact Logic

The aim of this project is to contribute to a change in perception and behaviour with regards to women in the field of renewable energy. It is composed of three different pillars: To increase the participation of young female engineers in the public energy sector, the project offers 14 months of traineeships within the Ministry of Energy (MoE) and its related public agencies to eight young female engineers in order to qualify them for a follow-up employment. At the same time, the MoE's Gender and Development Unit intends to mainstream the topic of gender and to build capacities within the key institutions in charge of energy development in Benin. Finally, to increase the overall visibility of women in technical job positions, the trainees facilitate lively sensibilisation sessions, during which they inform female students at six high schools about the career opportunities for women in technical professions.

Innovative Project Elements

The innovative dimension lies in the promotion of female engineers in the energy sector by show of example. Starting with these eight women, the project aspires to create a long-term multiplier effect to increase the number of women being actively involved across Benin's public and private energy sector.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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